



## Mr. Louis Passfield

December 8, 1966 - November 10, 2022

It is with the heaviest, broken hearts that we announce that on the evening of November 10th, 2022, Louis died in Calgary, Alberta aged 55.

Louis was born in London in 1966. He received his bachelor's degree in Sports Science in 1990 and went on to receive a PhD in 1998, both from the University of Brighton.

Louis loved cycling, running and hiking and made connections with many people through these passions of his. He was one of the lucky ones in the sense that he truly loved his job and those he worked with. He worked at the Universities of West Sussex, Aberdeen, Glamorgan, Kent and Calgary. He was a physiologist for British Cycling from 2005-2008. Louis remained friends with people from all of these roles for many years.

Louis' prevalence in academia speaks for itself, he had over 30 years of experience as a sport scientist in elite sport. He also published over 80 papers on his research in training, testing, cycling and data analytics. A recent comment made about Louis read "knowledge is power and this man was powerful, a true legend" which echoes the introductions British Cycling used to use before his talks saying "The Knowledge is coming". Louis' passion for sharing his knowledge was what set him apart from his peers, he was fortunate to be able to make his expert knowledge accessible to many in a

way that was a joy to listen to.

While Louis was well known, well respected and well loved in this world, he was best known for his capacity for love, his humanity, the joy and light he brought into every room and his immense ability to care for so many so deeply. He truly had the most kind, generous and genuine soul which translated into his personal and academic lives so clearly. The extent of Louis' network is a testament to the impact he had on so many.

While Louis loved his work and those he worked with, his true love was his family. He and Sarah raised three beautiful young women -- Anna, Elinor and Madeleine -- whom he was immensely proud of and they, equally proud to be his daughters. In recent years, Louis made Calgary his new home to be with Lori, whom he married this September, twenty-eight years after first meeting at the 1994 Commonwealth Games. Louis quickly became a very well-loved member of Lori's family who made him feel like one of their own.

Louis was predeceased by his mother Reneè in 2002. Louis is survived by his partner Lori and their dog Cariad, three daughters Anna, Elinor and Madeleine, brothers George (Amber and their daughter Ada), Henry (Lou) and Jonathon, step-father David Passfield (Lynne), father Danoo Banerjee (Elizabeth Kiss), along with aunts, uncles and cousins in the UK and India.

Louis was known for his infectious laugh; you couldn't help but join in when he was laughing. He often was making himself laugh with his favourite Dad jokes, or by embarrassing his daughters which he found endlessly entertaining. Many of us will have the fondest memories of Louis and they will all include his smile and his laugh. A close friend of Louis' said "I will miss him with a smile on my face" which perfectly encapsulates the happiest memories of him alongside the devastation of missing him.

Recently, Ellie went to send Louis a message from his friend Dr. Mark Burnley, which she told Mark and he replied “He’d probably say ‘you still can but just don’t expect a reply’ and then laugh his head off”, which you can all imagine would be very typical of Louis.

A Celebration of Louis' Life will take place at the Last Defence Lounge on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 1:00PM. You are invited to please wear something blue, or something that reminds you of Louis.

Our hearts are heavy and completely broken after the sudden passing of our dad last week. Our dad was so easy to love, everyone who met him laughed with him and the world has truly lost one of the kindest hearts. We love him very very much and we are so proud to be his daughters. It was a huge shock and has been completely devastating. We are very grateful for all the messages of love, support and condolence we have been receiving. He was and still is a very special man who is so loved.

Memorial Donations may be made to the Orange Shirt Society (Every Child Matters) [www.orangeshirtday.org](http://www.orangeshirtday.org) (PO Box 4240, Williams Lake BC V2G); Shelter UK [www.shelter.org.uk](http://www.shelter.org.uk) (88 Old St. London EC1V 9HU, UK); or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR - [www.unhcr.ca](http://www.unhcr.ca) (280 Albert Street, Suite 401, Ottawa ON K1P 5G8).

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

DEC 3. 1:00 PM (MT)

Last Defence Lounge - Macewan Student Centre  
402 Collegiate Blvd NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 4V8 (CA)

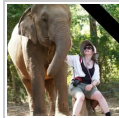
# Tribute Wall



“ *Lyle Reeves Funerals created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Louis Passfield*



**Lyle Reeves Funerals** - November 29, 2022 at 12:03 PM



*I was shocked at hearing of the passing of this incredible man.  
Louis Passfield*

*He was a great professor who always came to class with a smile on his face, valued his students thoughts and opinions, and made one of the hardest courses in Kinesiology fun and enjoyable. He was my professor in third year and always looked forward to his lessons. He was a good man and a great educator.  
My condolences to his friends and family.  
He will be missed.*

**Jillian Ball** - December 01, 2022 at 05:57 PM

JS

*RIP Louis. God bless all your family and friends. The Staff Family.*

**Jamie Staff** - December 03, 2022 at 03:56 PM

FA

*Such a lovely service to celebrate Louis. Sending lots of love xx*

**Faye** - December 03, 2022 at 05:56 PM

JD

*What a beautiful services - so much love and laughter and sadness.  
Great celebration of a life well lived.*

**Jocelyne Daw** - December 05, 2022 at 10:51 AM

SP

“ I have only just heard of Louis passing and am very saddened. I was doing my undergrad in Sport Science 1996-1999 at the University of Brighton, and remember Louis well. As many other people have said here, I remember Louis' contagious laughter, warmth, sharp intelligence, and the encouragement he gave me - he was truly an inspiration.

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**Stephen Pack** - July 01, 2025 at 11:13 AM

AS

“ We were so sad to hear the news of Louis' passing. He was such a happy, kind person that always brought so much positive energy to the office. He will be greatly missed. Our sincerest condolences to his close friends and family.



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**Ashleigh** - January 12, 2023 at 05:49 PM

MM

“ *Louis was an absolutely wonderful professor and friend. He always came to the University of Calgary with a smile on his face, ready to teach and inspire students. I was lucky to have been a student during his first time teaching the Exercise Physiology course at the U of C, and I am so grateful I was able to learn from such an inspirational person. He supported and cared for his students far beyond academia and his door was always open, helping through the tough times. He inspired me to pursue a research Master's in Exercise Physiology and I am so thankful for the time and effort he spent throughout my undergrad and to help get me there. He talked of his daughters and wife often, his love for cycling, and desserts. I will miss seeing his smiling face and waving through the window, walking up the stairs to visit him at his U of C office. He was such a light in everyone's life and I am so sorry to all the family and friend's who have lost such a wonderful man. I hope that his memory continues on with his wife and daughters, and that they know how much of an impact he made in people's lives, and for the rest of their lives. I send my deepest condolences and love.*



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**Mary Mackie** - December 08, 2022 at 08:56 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Lyle Reeves Funerals** - December 04, 2022 at 01:22 PM

NC

*I don't know him at all, but reading he was a top bloke, I'm a road cyclist 40 years +, and first read about him in cycling weekly over Christmas, we were both born on 8th Dec 1966, condolences to all his family and friends. Sorry if this post looks abit weird but I was widowed myself last year, and still finding some meaning and direction. I just thought what good name Passfield, when you are involved in elite sport, then when we're the same age to the day I felt some affinity. ☐*

Neil Crossland - January 02, 2023 at 11:29 AM

SA

“ Privileged to have known and worked with you Sarah

sarah - December 04, 2022 at 12:00 PM

DS

“ Sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Louis. Lovely tributes providing wonderful memories of times we have all enjoyed in laughter and fun in the company of Louis. Rest well my friend.

Darren Stanborough - December 04, 2022 at 08:14 AM

MB

“ I first met Louis in 1996 at the University of Brighton when he was a part-time lecturer during his PhD. He taught training theory, and he gave me the spark that led me to a career in sport and exercise science. He introduced himself by saying that he was part of a support team in Atlanta whose charges (the men's pursuit team) came fourth. He gestured to the door and said "So if you want to leave now I totally understand!" He was the first lecturer to really show me how far enthusiasm, close logic and careful methods can take you. It's a lesson I've never forgotten.

Later, he was my boss at Kent. My experience is that he didn't lead so much as offer a vision of what could be, and trusted you to walk your own path - encouraging you as you trod it. Even the little wins you got in academia (a paper published, an invited talk) would be greeted with an "Oh that's FANTASTIC!" from him.

Louis also had an extra-dry sense of humour. Able to find the funny side of almost any situation, I cannot count the number of times there would a quip, followed by a pause as he gave you a chance to catch up, and then his head would rock back, his mouth would open, and the most joyous laugh would emerge.

My thoughts are with Ellie and the rest of the family, Rest well, Louis.

Mark Burnley, Loughborough University

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Mark Burnley - December 03, 2022 at 05:40 PM

KC

“ Thank you so much for a touching ceremony.  
Lots of love and hugs Kyra, Steve and Lucy



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**Kyra De Coninck** - December 03, 2022 at 04:53 PM

MD

“ Marilyn Doust lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Louis Passfield



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**Marilyn Doust** - December 03, 2022 at 04:16 PM

HJ

“ Helen & David James lit a candle in memory  
of Mr. Louis Passfield



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**helen & David James** - December 03, 2022 at 04:13 PM

HJ

Your 'laughter & humour' will forever live on in our memories of you  
and all that you gave to so many...xx

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**Helen & David James** - December 03, 2022 at 04:16 PM

DW

“ *Deborah I. Wilkinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Louis Passfield*



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**Deborah I. Wilkinson** - December 03, 2022 at 03:11 PM

KW

“ *Katherine Wilkinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Louis Passfield*



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**Katherine Wilkinson** - December 03, 2022 at 03:11 PM

PK

“ Sincere condolences to family, friends and colleagues of Professor Louis Passfield FBASES



*Attending on behalf of Liverpool John Moores University School of Sport and Exercise Sciences where Louis helped up to initiate our Professional Doctorate in Sport and Exercise Sciences and support our first few cohorts of Graduates. The course gathered great strength and depth from your insight and experience.*

*I am also BASES Chair and Louis was a significant contributor to our association and a much respected Fellow. Louis was recognised at our AGM in November with a moment for reflection taken.*

*At a personal level I supervised with Louis on a Prof Doc and it was an absolute pleasure.*

*Professor Zoe Knowles*

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**Professor Zoe Knowles** - December 03, 2022 at 03:07 PM

JD

“ What a shock to hear. Condolences to Louis' family. I have many fond memories of Louis' time on the South Coast of England and at Brighton University in Eastbourne. Louis was a great man and a great scientist. He gave so much to the sport of cycling and to individual cyclists. His research was innovative, and his academic legacy will live on through his research papers and his contribution to advances in exercise physiology. I remember many stimulating conversations with Louis during his PhD and it was with pride that I saw how his subsequent career advanced. One of the key people in UK sports science. We'll all miss you Louis. Professor Jo Doust, Brighton University

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**Jonathan Doust** - December 03, 2022 at 03:07 PM

SA

“ I have first met Louis him being my line manager, then I became his line manager and we ended up sharing an office. In all of these qualities I was impressed by kindness, integrity, humility, and generosity. I would have dozens of stories to share which are exemplary of his quality as a human being.  
I will share 3 of them.

- One occasion that was a hard for me: When I arrived in the UK from France I was broke because I had spent 3 weeks staying in an B&B until we find an apartment to rent. Louis got aware of that and together with one of his daughters we came over to the newly rented and he gave me as a present an old family TV that he had as he knew I could not afford to buy a new one.

- One challenging time for him: when he shared with me the news that he would change country I was a bit concerned, he reassured him saying ' do not worry, Sakis, this is a good decision, it is about LIFE!'

- 'A funny story. It was August 2009. He knew that I had gone for a 3 week summer holidays in Greece, He texted me saying 'Sakis I just passed by your house today as I was coming from the fish market, since I know how much you like fish I brought you a fresh one, I knocked the door, you were not there so I squeezed it in your letterbox. I hope you enjoyed' :)

*That's how I will remember Louis, generous, following his dreams, and amazing sense of humour!*

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Sakis - December 03, 2022 at 03:07 PM

SM

“ An example of Louis' sense of humour (not being British it took me a while to get it): Me: "Louis, what do you think of me going off for three months on a trip from London to Beijing to study fatigue in motorbike riders?". Louis with a very serious face: "Ask the Director of Research" (PS, I was the Director of Research). So many people will miss such a great man. We love you Louis

Samuele Marcora - December 03, 2022 at 03:00 PM

MD

“ Memories of your infectious laugh will forever put a smile on my face Louis. Always loved being in your company and you will be hugely missed. Your Cousin Matt x



Matt Davage - December 03, 2022 at 02:07 PM

HC

“ The news of Louis was a huge shock. I am lucky to have shared some fun times with Louis over the years as an undergrad at Brighton but also with him, Sarah and the girls. Louis, the world has lost a special person and for sure your legacy will continue through your wonderful girls and the world of academia. You will be sorely missed and I feel blessed to have been able to call you a friend. Forever remembered. With love Heidi (Coleman) xx



Heidi Coleman - December 03, 2022 at 01:09 PM

KB

“ We were so shocked to hear of the passing of Louis, who became a friend of ours when all of our girls became friends at school and when we were all new to Chartham in 2007. As everyone has said, he had the biggest smile, an infectious laugh and made all feel welcome. He will leave a gaping hole in the world. RIP Louis and big hugs to all the family.  
Love from Kym, Barb, Alex and Minjie in Australia.

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**Kym Berry** - December 03, 2022 at 06:58 AM

PL

“ Louis has been such a great guy and his research was a big inspiration for me. RIP my friend.

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**Peter Leo** - December 03, 2022 at 12:48 AM

CG

“ So sorry to hear about Louie's passing. I didn't know him well, but I will always remember him for how friendly he was when passing him by in the hallways and the big smile he always seemed to have on his face.

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**Chris Gordon** - December 02, 2022 at 04:33 PM

CG

“ Louis always had a smile and kind words to say. I enjoyed spending time with him. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with Lori and his family at this time. He may be gone, but he is never forgotten.

*Cheryl Gathercole*

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**Cheryl Gathercole** - December 02, 2022 at 12:40 PM



“ *I was shocked at hearing of the passing of this incredible man. He was a great professor who always came to class with a smile on his face, valued his students thoughts and opinions, and made one of the hardest courses in Kinesiology fun and enjoyable. He was my professor in third year and always looked forward to his lessons. He was a good man and a great educator. My condolences to his friends and family. He will be missed.*

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**Jillian Ball** - December 01, 2022 at 05:58 PM



“ *Louis and I had the most uplifting conversations about teaching and coaching - always me standing at the open door of his office, always Louis sharing a perspective I found insightful, energizing, and wise. Louis recommended "The Courage to Teach" by Parker Palmer to me and it reads like he wrote it. Sending large love to you all - Cari Din*

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**Cari Din** - December 01, 2022 at 05:56 PM



“ June 02, 2022 was one of the happiest days of my life as I graduated from the MKin program along with my fellow peers that afternoon. That day would not have been complete without Louis joining us that morning for a wonderful celebration @UCalgary. Louis was our MKin director and we had the privilege of working very closely with him as he taught and mentored us throughout the graduate program. Louis brought positivity and a contagious sense of humour to his lectures which were thought-provoking and encouraged us to explore alternative approaches to questions and problems. He was generous with his time and talents and he genuinely cared about us, his students. In the words of a classmate of mine, “The world has lost a great man”. While the world is a little less bright without him, I hope these words will bring some measure of comfort to his friends, family, and loved ones knowing that he left an indelible impact on us.

Thank you for everything Dr. Louis Passfield. Gracias 🙏



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**Gabe Venegas** - December 01, 2022 at 02:11 PM

NI

“ I know Louis from work - as a colleague with offices across from each other for many years at UofC. Louis was always a pleasure to be around - to see his passion for his students and research, to hear his (mostly bad/funny) dad jokes, and to take in his always smiling face. I will truly miss him, and my thoughts and prayers go out to Lori and his 3 daughters - Anna, Elinor and Madeleine.

Nicole Culos-Reed

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**Nicole** - December 01, 2022 at 01:22 PM

CJ

“ Dear Lori and Louis's daughters. My heart is full of sincere feelings for your all at this very difficult time. I smiled just reading his obituary, can only imagine what his reality with you all was. Blessings to each of you now.

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**Connie Lorraine Jewell** - November 29, 2022 at 09:44 PM

JC

“ Shattered by the loss of a great friend and my heart goes out to Lori and Louis' whole family. Your loss is immeasurable. My consolation is that I had the good fortune to know him. His example is a shining light for all. Jim Campbell

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**Jim Campbell** - November 28, 2022 at 04:24 PM

ES

“ It was always a treat to run into Louis in the hallways at UofC. He was full of positivity, always had a smile on his face, and had a genuine desire to help others. He was a really special person and I count myself as very fortunate to have crossed his path. I was so shocked to hear of his passing. The world is a little dimmer without his light. Sending my love and condolences to his family and friends.

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**Erin Scott** - November 25, 2022 at 04:40 PM

CM

“ I only knew Louis for a while, as I met him when he kindly offered to be my dissertation client. For the very short time I knew Louis I was amazed at his pure excitement for his subject area and his surprising humbleness.



When heard the news from a friend in the cycling community I was totally shocked as I was only just speaking to him a week prior and laughing and joking with him!

It's so very sad that someone such as Louis has been taken from us far too early.

My warmest condolences to his friends and family

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**Christian Merrett** - November 25, 2022 at 04:07 AM

LI

“ Louis was my neighbor for several years after having met Lori, his love. Always a big smile on his face, a genuine kindness and so soft spoken. Louis was a bright shining star. My heart goes out to Lori and his daughters.

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**Libby** - November 22, 2022 at 11:24 PM

PC

“ As someone who shared an office in the same hallway at the University of Calgary, I mostly knew Louis for his kind nature, easy smile and warm sense of humor. I am learning now of the impact he had on so many others as a teacher, researcher and athlete. Knowing this sadness just as an acquaintance, it is heartbreaking to think how it feels for his family and friends. I am so sorry for your loss.

*Pam Cox*

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**Pam Cox** - November 17, 2022 at 10:22 PM

JD

*I write as Louis' aunt. His mother was my sister. So I have known him since he was born.  
I know how successful he was in his career. I know how hard he had to work to attain this success.  
But to me he will always be the little boy with shining eyes who stayed with us in the summer holidays. One of my happiest memories is when he , and his three cousins played "Olympics". They made paper medals and competed in all manner of athletic events. Perhaps this laid the foundations for his adult sporting life?  
Louis is dearly missed.  
Requiescat in pace.  
Jane Davage*

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**Jane Davage** - November 30, 2022 at 01:48 PM

BR

*I first heard of Louis through the Global Cycling Network, a YouTube channel for competitive cycling enthusiasts. He appeared as the guru of sports science for cyclists. He was always insightful, answering questions that helped people understand the science behind cycling, but he was also fun to listen to. When he moved to Calgary and I met him in person, that impression was reinforced. Our offices were close together and I enjoyed talking about his research and cycling in general. I only saw him a few times since I retired, but I will remember him as a man who was passionate about cycling, research and teaching.*

*Ride on Louis*

*Bill Richardson*

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**Bill Richardson** - December 01, 2022 at 09:34 PM

BR

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*Ride on Louis*

*Bill Richardson*

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**Bill Richardson** - December 01, 2022 at 09:34 PM

JM

*Louis was an absolute joy to work with. His compassion and humour made him so approachable to students and staff. My condolences to his family.*

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**Jodie McGill** - December 02, 2022 at 04:57 PM

SG

*Louis, I shall never forget how fortunate I was to have you as my supervisor and friend. You made completing a doctorate through house moves, babies and changing jobs seem possible and always made me feel I could climb any mountain. Rarely offering advice, but always helping me to find the answer with your infectious enthusiasm and smile. I will remember fondly our prof doc meet ups and finding the coolest places for coffee and lunch! Thank you Louis. Rest well.*

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**Sarah Gilchrist** - December 03, 2022 at 04:21 PM

AU

*This is a post from Alan and Esther Hunt of West Sussex, UK. We had no idea that Louis had passed away until we came across a post online. We are incredibly sad to hear of his passing. We always enjoyed his company and the wonderful hospitality we shared with his family. Sending our deepest sympathy 🙏 and respects to all those who knew him and loved him. Warm regards Esther and Alan*

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**Alan and Esther Hunt and family UK** - August 22, 2024 at 03:06 PM